

Legislation—cont.'d



The Title's underlying premise is simple and clear: Given the massive scale of the threat that catastrophic wildfire poses to the health of pristine forest ecosystems, threatened and endangered species, air quality, water quality and the safety of myriad communities, it is unacceptable that it takes federal land managers upwards of several years to maneuver forest health projects (like thinning and prescribed burns) through sundry procedural and analytical requirements and around various bureaucratic and judicial obstacles.

Biomass

The Biomass Title would establish two grant programs (authorized at \$50 million combined) to encourage energy-related utilization of the otherwise valueless wood, chips, brush, thinnings and slash removed in conjunction with projects on federal forests and rangelands focused on reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire and insect infesta-

tion and disease.

Watershed Forestry Assistance

The Watershed Forestry Title would provide financial and technical support needed by private forest landowners to better manage their lands in order to protect water quality, to restore watershed conditions, to improve municipal drinking water supplies, and to address threats to forest health, including catastrophic wildfire.

Accelerated Research to Address Insect Infestations

The Insect Research Title directs the Department to conduct an accelerated program to plan, conduct, and promote research on bark

beetles, the Hemlock woolly adelgid, and the emerald ash borer.

Early Warning Program for Disease and Insect Infestations

The Title would authorize and direct federal land managers to establish early detection programs for insect and disease infestations, with an emphasis on hardwood forests, so that agencies can isolate and treat adverse conditions before they reach epidemic levels.

Taxes

Internet Taxes

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored a bill to extend the moratorium on Internet taxes.



U.S. Army soldiers board a C-130 aircraft at an undisclosed location on April 4, 2003. The U.S. Army is deployed here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Quinton T. Burris, U.S. Air Force)

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored a bill to expand tax relief to troops. This bill, H.R. 1687, introduced by Reps Culberson (R-TX) and Mike Rogers (R-AL) will extend the federal tax exemption for members of the armed services to the entire active force, instead of just those serving in combat zones.